

The invention claimed is:

1. A portable patient-operable pre-operative test selector especially for use by bed-ridden pre-operative patients, said selector comprising:

power supply means for accepting a battery, electronic circuitry connected to derive operating power exclusively from a battery when installed in said power supply means, said electronic circuitry including data-storage means for storing a series of pre-operative questions directed to the determination of which pre-operative diagnostic tests should be undergone by a patient before surgery, reflective display means, programmable data-processing means, control program storage means for storing a program for controlling said data-processing means, a special-purpose control program stored therein, said control program being arranged for displaying said pre-operative questions serially on said display means, means operable by an unskilled patient to answer "yes" and "no" to each such question in turn, means for storing such answers, said control program being further arranged for analyzing said answers and determining therefrom which pre-operative diagnostic tests are indicated, and output means for revealing the results of such determination.

2. A portable test selector for use by an untrained patient to complete a medical questionnaire, comprising:

read-only memory means for storing (i) a series of preselected medical questions related to determining which tests among a set of preselected tests the patient should undergo, and (ii) a decision table indicating for each of the tests which answers to which questions should cause that test to be determined as one the patient should undergo;

scratchpad memory means for storing data; means for reading said data from said scratchpad memory means

display means for displaying information to the patient;

interrogation means for causing the medical questions stored in said read-only memory means to be displayed to the patient by the display means;

manual input means for enabling the patient to indicate an answer to a displayed question; and

tabulating means for enabling the patient to indicate an answer to a displayed question; and

tabulating means for causing the corresponding answer indicated by the patient via the manual input means to be stored as data in the scratchpad memory means;

wherein the read-only memory means is easily removable from the test selector and replaceable to enable updating of the medical questions and decision table.

3. A portable test selector for use by an untrained patient to complete a medical questionnaire, comprising:

read-only memory means for storing (i) a series of preselected medical questions related to determining which test among a set of preselected test the patient should undergo, and (ii) a decision table indicating for each of the tests which answers to which questions should cause that test to be determined as one the patient should undergo;

scratchpad memory means for storing data; means for reading said data from said scratchpad memory means

display means for displaying information to the patient;

interrogation means for causing the medical questions stored in said read-only memory means to be displayed to the patient by the display means;

manual input means for enabling the patient to indicate an answer to a displayed question; and

tabulating means for causing the corresponding answer indicated by the patient via the manual input means to be stored as data in the scratchpad memory means;

wherein the medical questions are those requiring an answer of YES or NO or NOT SURE, and the manual input means enables the patient to indicate YES, NO, or NOT SURE as the answer.

4. A portable test selector for use by an untrained patient to complete a medical questionnaire, comprising:

read-only memory means for storing (i) a series of preselected medical questions related to determining which tests among a set of preselected tests the patient should undergo, and (ii) a decision table indicating for each of the test which answers to which questions should cause that test to be determined as one the patient should undergo;

scratchpad memory means for storing data; means for reading said data from said scratchpad memory means

display means for displaying information to the patient;

interrogation means for causing the medical questions stored in said read-only memory means to be displayed to the patient by the display means;

manual input means for enabling the patient to indicate an answer to a displayed question;

tabulating means for causing the corresponding answer indicated by the patient via the manual input means to be stored as data in the scratchpad memory means;

and reporting means responsive to the answers stored in the scratchpad memory and the decision table stored in the read-only memory means for determining for each test if the patient's answers to one or more questions should cause that test to be determined as one the patient should undergo.

5. The device of claim 4 and further including printer interface means to which a data input line to a printer can be coupled; and report generator means, responsive to the reporting means, for sending as output to the printer interface a list of only the tests which the reporting means has determined are ones the patient should undergo.

6. A portable test selector for use by an untrained patient to complete a medical questionnaire, comprising:

read-only memory means for storing (i) a series of preselected medical questions related to determining which tests among a set of preselected tests the patient should undergo, and (ii) a decision table indicating for each of the tests which answers to which questions should cause that test to be determined as one the patient should undergo;